

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for compressing a first stream of  
5 data, said first stream of data comprising a plurality of input words, comprising:  
receiving said plurality input words,  
adaptively compressing said plurality of input words into a plurality of  
compression codes; and  
outputting said plurality of compression codes upon encountering an end-of-  
10 file signal in said first stream of data, wherein said plurality of compression codes are  
fewer in number than a number of said plurality of input words.

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